le bison battle over a prospective mate. Neither wants to relinquish what he may have traveled a great distance to find.

Snooty male bison are the pickier sex

iologist says amorous bulls sniff out the most fertile mating prospects

Michele Ostrove
ional Geographic News Service 7-8-90

Five summers of chasing amorous on through the South Dakota Badds have taught Joel Berger an unpected lesson about love in the anil kingdom:

When it comes to mating, males, females, choose their partners. hat are the shaggy, humpbacked nts looking for? Not good looks or rsonality, but a far more utilitarian quality — fertility.

Male bison search out the females t are most likely to give them an spring within the next year, says rger, a biologist at the University Nevada and director of the study bison reproductive behavior.

"This is an important discovery, ecause in virtually all species of mmals today, people have pre-ned females are the choosy ones," says. "Nobody has previously monstrated that males may be as more discriminating."

Berger's findings have led many low biologists to suspect, as he es, that male selectivity may also ply to other mammals.

"This type of data is quite difficult gather, so it's likely that other le mammals also do similar things t we've been unable to observe," says.

"I suspect most species have com-x and subtle behaviors they use to

To mate or not to mate? The nose knows. A male bison sniffs a female candidate.

to Berger and his assistants. Because they had neither roads nor cars, they covered as much as 14 miles a day on foot. Their work shifts began at 3:30 a.m. and ended at dusk.

The project offered its share of thrills. For real excitement, says researcher Carol Cunningham, nothing surpasses being mobbed by a herd of curious bison — or being charged by an angry or surprised one.

"When you're surrounded, there's no way to get out; there are no trees to climb," she says, recalling numerous incidents of people being gored by bison in national parks. "All we could do was throw rocks and jump up and down."

A bison running at you full ti eyes glaring and horns lowered, is experience that leaves you shakin Cunningham says. "You don't run that would be the worst thing to d You just stand your ground a hope the bluff works."

Fortunately for her, it always di

sband,
stances

did the passenger pigeon become
nd of pigeons that poop on statues
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ow the basic story of the passenger
em all. What makes this extinction
us and baffling is that there were
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nmonly estimated that two of every
America in the early 1800s — 40
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incredible when you read descrip-
ck" of these pigeons looked like:
n angry storm front rolling in from
on to another. Where they nested,
ed like it was blanketed in snow.
ornithologist James Audubon once
ting pigeons so thick that the "light
as obscured as by an eclipse." They
for hours, and Audubon guessed
st a billion birds. Another ornithol-
lson, visited a pigeon breeding
in 1806 and guessed that it held
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et's just assume there were a lot of

Their feathers made good pillows.
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o long and cost too much. So the
ed large nets. To get the birds into
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5,000 seek refuge somewhere?
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ultifold: A female passenger pi-
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Cure the common shoplifter — nuke 'em

AT WIT'S END

ERMA BOMBECK

When I was in college, I wrote for the in-house magazine of a large department store. A thin wall separated our offices from the store's security force. All day long, a stream of shoplifters were brought there for questioning, giving new meaning to the words "self-service." I couldn't help overhearing their bizarre stories, punctuated by tears and hysteria.

After a while, it wasn't enough to have store detectives, walkie-talkies and two-way mirrors in the fitting rooms. Filching was getting out of hand. The white plastic safety tag was born. I have often said if savings & loans could have protected their investors' monies with the same little white plastic safety tags, we wouldn't be in the mess we are in today.

A friend of mine bought and paid for a gauze dress, and when she got it home realized the salesperson had forgotten to remove the tag. It wasn't pleasant when the tag whacked her knees like an anchor with every step, but it was better than taking the garment back to the store. In the end, however, it was the public reaction to it that she couldn't live with. That white plastic tag made Hester's scarlet A look like a piece of costume jewelry. People assumed she had stolen it.

Recently, stores unveiled a new weapon in the war against stealing that is like a grenade. It's called the "Inktag," and this is how it works. If the little white capsule attached to the garment is not removed by a special tool, three vials inside break and permanent ink sprays out. Not only is the garment ruined, but the person breaking the seal runs the risk of being cut by broken glass and jagged metal.

If this doesn't work, I don't know where we go from here. Maybe we're looking at the Bubble Button — a small, round piece of plastic that if not removed professionally will inflate the dress, coat or skirt like an air mattress, making it impossible to remove from the store. Or how about the Terminator Tag? When a shoplifter tries to twist it off, a mine explodes and the garment vanishes in a mushroom cloud.

All of this could get pretty ugly before a solution is found. We could possibly see clothes protected by an innocent-looking cap that when forced open would release the smell of sweat to penetrate the garment for the rest of its life.

I'd hate to see stores resort to the ultimate in weaponry — a piece of plastic that is still on the drawing board. Without proper tools to remove it, the substance inside changes the garment into a divided skirt. That's pretty inhumane — even for a war.

Immediate CPR often can save lives

By Alton Thygerson

THE SAFE LIFE

Hank Gathers, an outstanding Loyola Marymount University basketball player, died during the West Coast Conference tournament game on March 4, 1990.

When Gathers collapsed on the court, millions of people witnessed a botched resuscitation, shown on television sports replays. Reports indicate that cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was not started for three to seven minutes after his collapse. Perhaps CPR would not have saved him, but the slowness in attempting resuscitation was not the way to care for him. Such situations demand a quicker response than Gathers received. There will be a next time, and responsible people should be able to react and respond quickly and properly.

Cardiac arrest (heart stoppage) can occur in people of any age and has many causes. Coronary blood vessels can become clogged, characteristically in older people, but can occur in younger people, especially those with a strong family history of

spasm, cardiac arrest and sudden death in young people. In addition, various conditions depriving the heart of oxygen or blood eventually cause cardiac arrest. Such conditions include severe respiratory distress (as in exercise-induced asthma), severe anemia, shock and certain poisons (e.g., carbon monoxide, cyanide). Still other conditions producing cardiac arrest include drowning and electrocution.

Bystanders can best cope with cardiac arrest by: (1) recognizing the signs of cardiac arrest; (2) telephoning to activate the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system; and (3) providing immediate rescue procedures, which includes CPR.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

The major objective of performing CPR is to provide oxygen to the brain, heart and other vital organs until appropriate medical treatment (advanced cardiac life support) can restore normal heart and breathing action. Speed is critical to success. The highest survival rates happen in those for whom CPR was started within four minutes of the time of the cardiac arrest and who were provided with advanced cardiac life support measures within eight minutes of their cardiac arrest.

The CPR technique is widely

forming rescue breathing and (3) providing chest compressions.

1. Opening an airway. Since the back of the tongue is the most common cause of airway obstruction in an unconscious victim, all that may be needed for someone not breathing is to move the lower jaw, which in turn moves the attached tongue. This is best done by tilting the head back and moving the lower jaw (chin) forward (known as the head-tilt/chin-lift method).

2. Breathing. If breathing does not start after the airway is opened, rescue breathing is the quickest way to get oxygen into the victim's lungs. If the victim's heart is beating, give one breath for an adult victim once every five seconds. If the victim's heart is not beating, chest compressions will have to be provided, along with the rescue breathing.

3. Chest compressions. If no pulse can be felt at the cartoid artery in the neck for adults, or the brachial artery in the upper arm for infants, closed chest cardiac compressions are performed on the sternum, with the rescuer pushing down on an adult about 1½ to 2 inches. Perform 15 chest compressions and then follow with two breaths.

The above material alone lacks de-